Financial crisis

throughout the financial system

had created a massive bubble. . Under a US rescue plan passed Friday, the government will buy up to 700 billion dollars of bad mortgage-related and other assets from banks, wiping the debts from their books and freeing them up to start lending again.

But US President George W. Bush cautioned Saturday: "The benefits of this package will not all be felt immediately."

Meanwhile, Hypo Real Estate (HRE), a key lender for construction and mortgages in Europe's biggest economy, hailed the second rescue plan in a week which has become the biggest in German financial history.

On Sunday, arm-twisting by the finance ministry led to a late-night accord with the Bundesbank central bank, private banks and market regulators on an additional 15billion-euro guarantee for HRE, which had already received guaranteed credits worth 35 billion euros.

Chancellor Angela Merkel warned however that "those who did irresponsible business will be held accountable".

Germany saw itself forced to offer unlimited protection for personal bank deposits. The finance ministry nearly doubled its initial estimate the value of the guaranteed accounts to total "significantly more than one trillion

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi raised the prospect of a US-style rescue fund for Europe ahead of a meeting of eurozone finance ministers Monday, after the same idea was shot down at a minisummit in Paris Saturday.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy meanwhile appealed for calm, saying on a visit to a car plant: "We have to stay the course and keep calm, keep cool heads."

Britain reportedly mulled shoring up ailing banks with billions of pounds in return for shares. Finance minister Alistair Darling called a meeting of an emergency economy committee to consider the partial

Melamine

FROM PAGE 16 Meanwhile, the Institute of Public Health and Nutrition (IPHN) has already issued letters to the importers to recall all kinds of unregistered baby milk formulas from the mar-

"At the same time the mobile court has kicked off a vigorous drive and if the Chinese brand powdered milk Yashili 1 is found in any of the shops, the shop owners will be fined and cases will be filed against the importers," said Fatima Parveen Chowdhury, Director of IPHN.

Testing of Cadbury Chocolates has also been started in country's laboratory while a mobile court in Chittagong yesterday seized 758 pieces of Cadbury Dairy Milk chocolates from five departmental stores.

Executive Magistrate of the District Administration Sanjida Sharmin who conducted the drive said they conducted the drive to stop selling of these chocolates as these items might have the indus-

nationalisation of banks.

Iceland, whose economy relies heavily on the financial sector suspended trading in all financial shares including three major banks amid reports of a government rescue of the stricken banking sector.

In Belgium, trading in shares of Fortis were suspended, the day after BNP Paribas took a controlling interest in the troubled finance group under an emergency deal with the Belgian and Luxembourg governments.

Central banks continued to pump tens of billions of dollars into interbank money markets that are nowessentially on life-support from state institutions because commercial banks are too frightened to lend to each other.

Analysts say very little money is being lent for more than a few days.

It was against this backdrop that European governments first assured their banking systems were safe, then promised support for banks, and one after another began strengthening guarantees for bank deposits.

But the plunge of stocks in Asia | citation said. and Europe was a strong signal that the need for a second attempt to save Hypo Real Estate has swept away market confidence that the US plan might mark the beginning of a quick turnaround.

Govt decides

FROM PAGE 16 time has decided to import petroleum from Malaysia.

The meeting also approved selling of dry fly ash, which is used as a raw material in manufacturing

The rate was fixed at Tk 823 a tonne for first year and will be adjusted each year based on inflation rate set by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

The government for the first time decided to sell dry fly ash while previously the dry fly ash was dumped in open ponds near the project.

Kumari Puja

saviour of humankind from all evils. Yesterday, devotees celebrated Shaptami puja. Devotees, especially children, wore their clothes and visited the different mandaps yesterday on the second day of Durga puja to see Durga and her children Lakshmi, Saraswati, Kartik and Ganesh and to seek their blessings.

The mandaps took on a festive mood to the sounds of dhaak (drum), brass and conches amidst hymns recited by Brahmins.

Beginning on Sunday, Hindus began the five-day long festivals through to Thursday to mark goddess Durga's victory over the evil force of Mahishashur. Bakshibazar, Shankharibazar,

Tantibazar, Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University, Ramna Kali Mandir, Dhakeswari Mandir, Thataribazar, Ramkrishna Mission, Pranab Math Siddeswari Kali Mandir, Dayagani Rayerbazar, Rajarbagh, Rishipara were a few of the prominent mandaps that have been given a decorative look with colourful designs and lights. The organisers have also arranged cultural programmes on the occasion.

Meanwhile, extra law enforcers puja festivities.

EC swings at greeting

During scrutiny of candidacy applications, the documents (photographs] will be used to cancel one's candidature for breaching the code of conduct, said the polls chief. He continued, "The country

seems to have been flooded with multi-coloured posters extending Eid greetings. Even portraits of party leaders were used in the posters. All an electoral offence. We cannot afford to sit idle."

According to the code of conduct, political parties and candidates in

fine of Tk 50,000, and even cancellation of candidature in the event of

gross irregularities. Initially, the EC was hesitant about enforcing the new code before for the ROs. Of the copies, one will be registration of the political parties. But in the wake of violations of the electoral code of late it resolved to make the prospective contenders

obevits rules. political climate. The code of conduct too has been accepted in its entirety by all political parties as it will reduce their election expendi-

ture," Huda said. On noticing a breach of the code, election monitoring officers will inform the electoral inquiry committees, and if necessary ask the law

enforcement agencies to take actions, he added. SCRUTINYMECHANISM According to the new electoral laws, an individual seeking election to parliament must furnish the commission with a set of information

ties, police records and educational qualifications. The laws empower the EC to

cancel one's candidature for keeping backinformation. The CEC said, "The returning

may not be possible for them to properly scrutinise the candidates particulars. So, we've decided to appoint two election monitoring

officers to do the job right." He said the monitoring officers check the authenticity of the information in the application forms and prepare summaries for the ROs. They will also see if anyone has concealed any information in the affidavit.

three days between filing of the candidacy applications and the start of scrutiny by the ROs. The CEC said a candidate will be

They will have to do the job in

able to submit a counter affidavit against his opponent for holding back information. He said the EC has taken the

that surfaced during the conduct of the August 4 local government polls. "At that time, we were criticised for not being able to plug the loop-

holes," Huda said, adding the new mechanism will be applied to the upcoming upazila elections as well.

The EC has also decided that two copies of the affidavit will have to be submitted along with the application for candidacy. "The original will be put up on notice board [at the offices of ROs] and the other will be available for anyone willing to photocopy the candidate's information."

The EC will print leaflets containing the candidates' information and distribute those among their constit. uents, the CEC said.

Election commissioners Muhammed Sohul Hussain and Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain were present at the press briefing.

Free polls

he also said the government is saying different things at different "The chief adviser once said the

emergency would be relaxed during the election period. But recently in New York he has said the polls would be held with the emergency rules in effect. Such comments might create obstacles to holding a fair and credible elecofficers (ROs) remain so busy that it tion," he said.

Nobel prize

FROM PAGE 16 Assembly said Barre-Sinoussi and Montagnier's discovery was one prerequisite for the current understanding of the biology of AIDS and its antiretroviral treatment. The pair's work in the early 1980s made it possible to clone the HIV-

genome. "This has allowed identification of important details in its replication cycle and how the virus interacts with its host," the citation said. "Furthermore, it led to development of methods to diagnose infected patients and to screen

The assembly said zur Hausen "went against current dogma" when he found that oncogenic human papilloma virus, or HPV, caused cervical cancer, the second most common cancer among

"His discovery has led to characterisation of the natural history of HPV infection, an understanding of mechanisms of HPV-induced carcinogenesis and the development of prophylactic vaccines against HPV acquisition," the

Alfred Nobel, the Swede who invented dynamite, established the prizes in his will in the categories of medicine, physics, chemistry, literature and peace. The economics prize is technically not a Nobel but a 1968 creation of Sweden's central bank.

The awards include the money, a diploma and an invitation to the prize ceremonies in Stockholm and Oslo on Dec. 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death in 1896.

Nobel left few instructions on how to select winners, but medicine winners are typically awarded for a specific breakthrough rather than a body of research.

Last year's medicine award went to US researchers Mario Capecchi and Oliver Smithies and Briton Martin Evans for work that led to a powerful and widely used technique to manipulate genes in mice, which has helped scientists study heart disease, diabetes, cancer, cystic fibrosis and other diseases.

Revised RPO

But BNP and its allies Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote rejected the revised RPO and demanded its cancellation. "I think the current provisions in the RPO are acceptable to all," he said adding that he has information that all political parties are working to get registered with the commission.

In the face of political parties demand for providing them with adequate time to get registered with the EC, the commission on September 30 sent to the law ministry the proposals to ease the registration procedure.

If the revised RPO is amended according to the new proposals, political parties will not need to hold national councils to amend their constitutions for meeting the registration criteria.

Parties unable to hold councils can now get registered with the EC on making provisional changes to their constitutions. But their highest policymaking bodies must pass a resolution to have the changes approved at national councils within six months of the first session of the ninth parliament.

Asked whether the law ministry will relax the registration procedure further, Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain said, "It will not be acceptable if the ministry does so without consulting with us."

AL Presidium

FROM PAGE 16

"We will sit tomorrow to fix some guidelines on election, registration with the Election Commission and party's election manifesto ahead of the central working committee meeting," Motia Chowdhury, an AL presidium member, said yesterday.

Talking to The Daily Star she said they would get registered with the EC with a note of dissent. She said their election manifesto had been prepared which would now need an approval from the ALCWC meeting.

The issue of formation of grand electoral alliance would also come up in the discussion of the meeting, she added.

Earlier, another presidium member Abdur Razzak alleged that the amended Representation of the People Order is being further modified for the benefit of a particular party---Jamaat-e-Islami'.

Razzak made the remark while distributing sarees among destitute women at the Sree Sree RamSita temple at Tikatuli yesterday.

He also urged the government to ensure foolproof security for AL chief Sheikh Hasina after her arrival.

UN may send FROM PAGE 1

she told the reporters.

Apart from the election issue, tative of UNDP, discussed with the foreign adviser the forthcoming visit of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to Bangladesh. He is expected to visit Bangladesh early

The foreign adviser termed the UN chief's planned visit a "landmark event" in the relations between the UN and Bangladesh.

Dhaka to press

FROM PAGE 1

Myanmar the month before. "The talks will cover the total gamut of our political and economic relations," said Iftekhar Chowdhury following a call on him by new Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh Phae Thann Oo.

Bangladesh signed an agreement with Myanmar in July 2007 to construct a 35-kilometre highway from Teknaf in Cox's Bazar to Bawlibazar in Myanmar. If the road is constructed,

Bangladesh's ultimate goal to establish a direct road link with China will be easier. Myanmar will have to build

120km roads from Bawlibazar to China border Kyautaw to that end. During the talks, Bangladesh will try to pursue the Myanmar delegates on this point. "We're looking forward to expediting the whole process while we talk," the foreign adviser

said. He added Chief Adviser

Fakhruddin Ahmed during his visit to China in September 2007 also laid emphasis on building a road between the two nations through Myanmar. Apart from that, Iftekhar said maritime border demarcation would be an important feature at the bilateral talks. Bangladesh and Myanmar sat in April in Dhaka to

discuss demarcation after a gap of

The next maritime talk is scheduled to be held in Myanmar in January next year. The two countries cannot carry out offshore oil and gas exploration for claim and counter-claim of the

with another neighbour India with whom talks have recently been held to resolve the long-standing maritime border demarcation issue. All the talks, however, ended

Important issues like crossborder smuggling of illicit weapons and explosives may also come up during the talks with Myanmar.

In a report recently submitted to the home and foreign ministries, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) has emphasised an understanding to check the ongoing trespassing of

exchange information about the smuggling syndicates," the report of the paramilitary force observes.

The chief adviser said the Bangladesh-Myanmar talks would open up a new horizon of friend-

"There is an ample scope for Dhaka and Yangoon," he said when the Myanmar ambassador paid a courtesy call on him at his office yesterday.

Charge sheet

ill-motivated, Delwar said Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina have to be allowed to participate in the elections. One will not find any substantial evidence if one looks into the case, he added.

He also said election cannot be free and fair under any threats, convictions and apprehensions. "Nobody should be barred from participating in the elections by convicting them in a farcical trial, he said.

The BNP leader said if the government wants free, fair and neutral elections, all cases against Khaleda Zia will have to be with-He said since the first investiga-

tion officer (IO) did not accuse Khaleda Zia in the case, the ACC appointed a new IO so that the new IO can accuse her. or Commissioner

Sohul Hossain's recent remark that Khaleda and Hasina till now have no bar to participating in the elections, he said, "We do not have any confidence in them... They say different things at different times. We do not want to take part in the election at someone's mercy... We want to join the polls under the existing laws of the Delwar said it is the responsi-

bility of the caretaker government to create a congenial atmosphere to ensure free and fair elections. He said the government will be responsible if freedom and fairness of the election are jeopar-

He said the government must lift the state of emergency to remove fear from people's mind so that they can cast their votes freely. Delwar also said in order to create a level playing field in the

demand that includes lifting of the emergency, scrapping the Representation of the People Order (Ordinance), 2008, relaxation of provisions for registrations of parties with the EC, deferment of the upazila polls and release of political leaders by withdrawing cases filed against them. JAMAAT'S REACTION

submission of the charge sheet a conspiracy "It seems that a vested quarter

wants to foil the election by sub mitting this kind of charge sheets,' said Mojahid, also an accused in

He said the submission was ill-

and barge-mounted power plant

graft cases. During the hearing of the petition filed with the SC, Hasina's counsel barrister Rafique-ul Huq told the court that earlier the HC had rejected her petition for bail in this case on medical grounds.

that she would file a leave to appeal with the SC after getting a certified copy of the HC order rejecting her bail prayer. Additional Attorney Genera

(AAG) Mansur Habib opposed the bail prayer saying that Hasina was released on parole on grounds of ill health on the basis of a medical report prepared in June this year.

He also said Hasina could seek bail after returning home, and the court could consider her prayer scrutinising her updated medical

Clients lose '10pc gas'

FROM PAGE 1 tampering as the equipment required to detect tampering are not available in the country.

"We've got many complaints that the mass of CNG is not being properly maintained in the volume that is being dispensed from the filling stations. On top of that some stations are tampering the meters for super profit. Considering the issue we are now working to purchase necessary equipment to detect whether the standardised pressure, mass, and volume are being maintained at the stations"

the official said. The official criticised the government saying, "Without any proper planning the government gave permissions to set up CNG filling stations, as a result even after so many years of converting to CNG for powering vehicles in the country, we are still working to find out the ideal standard of measurement and looking for the equipment required to detect meter tampering.

BSTI officials said they will soon launch a drive against meter tampering and flouting of standards by CNG filling stations.

An engineer of RPGCL on condition of anonymity told The Daily Star that a few CNG station owners in collusion with relevant accessories importers tamper the meters at the time of their calibration. He said, "For converting natural

gas into CNG, the required standard pressure is 3,000 pounds per square inch (psi) in the standard temperature of 20 degrees celsius and .67 standard specific gravity of natural gas. But, during calibration of CNG dispensers the standards are usually not maintained, as a result the mass in the output becomes lesser than the standard.

motivated. Hasina's bail

He prayed for her bail saying

The volume however remains the

quite often gives different mileages. He also said he observed that on an average pressure in the dispensduring refilling."

"As almost all through the year the temperature in the country is above 30 degrees celsius, extra equipment is required to maintain the standard temperature, but the filling station authorities don't bother, resulting in thinning of the mass in higher temperature."

stations can't be blamed, as the required natural gas input pressure, which is 15psi for the pipelines from Titas and Baghrabad, is quite often not available," he added. RPGCL engineers said measur-

ing CNG output in terms of volume

has always been difficult, on top of that a lack of proper equipment and oversight is making the matter worse, as a result tampering of

which I travel regularly." "According to my calculations if I fill my CNG tank from a station where the meter has been tampered, I lose 25 taka per filling,

FROM PAGE 16 new office, BNP Secretary General

Khandaker Delwar Hossain told reporters at Khaleda's new office. He said, "From here the party chairperson will make preparations

for the elections." The BNP chairperson exchanged views with party leaders and activists. for about two and a half hours on her first day at the new office.

Former BNP lawmaker Zakaria Taher, son of late BNP leader AKM Abu Taher, owns the 2,500 square feet building, sources said.

Khaleda had earlier selected Hawa Bhaban as her office before the 2001 election. Hawa Bhaban turned into an "alternative power house" during the five-year rule of the BNP-led fourparty alliance.

Khaleda's son Tarique Rahman on March 7 last year and also her own arrest on September 3 on corruption After her release on September 11 this year, Khaleda selected the house

been closed since the arrest of

Rehman in the capital's Eskaton for running party activities. Delwar said the party's Naya

Organisational activities will be run from party's Naya Paltan and Gulshan offices, Delwarsaid.

Replying to a query, the BNP leader said it would be unfair to compare the party chairperson's new office with

Hawa Bhaban. BNP standing committee members RA Gani, M Shamsul Islam and Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky, party vicepresident MK Anwar, adviser to the BNP chairperson Brig Gen (retd) Hannan Shah, joint secretary general Nazrul Islam Khan, office secretary Rizvi Ahmed and Selima Rahman,

SC upholds

FROM PAGE 16 with the Supreme Court for staying the High Court orders. After hearing the petitions, Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice Md Joynul Abedin yesterday passed 'no' orders

petitioners to file regular appeals against the High Court orders. The lawyers concerned said following the apex court orders the HC

orders granting bail to the accused will remain valid. The chamber judge upon an application also extended for six weeks its earlier order staying the trial proceedings of a corruption case against

petitions yesterday extended for four months its earlier orders granting bail to about 70 people, including BNF leader Tarique Rahman, in different The same day, three special courts set up in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban

personal appearance in three cases against him.

CASE AGAINST ABBAS, MOUDUD, AZAM The ACC filed a case against detained former minister for housing and public works Mirza Abbas and his wife Afroza Abbas on August 16 this year on

Station, ACC Assistant Director Shafiul Alam stated that the accused amassed wealth worth Tk 33,48,581 illegally and did not mention it in the statements

On September 16 last year, the ACC filed a case against Moudud Ahmed with Gulshan Police Station on charge of possessing wealth beyond his known sources of income and withholding information about his assets.

On January 10 this year, ACC Deputy Director Mobara Khanam filed a graft case against Mirza Azam

and his wife Aleya Azam with Ramna Police Station. In the case statement, the complainant said Azam accumulated wealth worth Tk 5,362,645 illegally and

commission. Aleya Azam was charged with abetting her husband in acquiring the illegal wealth.

Under new provision in the Article 90

Amendment

of the RPO, the Election Commission

relaxed conditions for loan and bill defaulters to participate in the election through another amendment made to Article 12 of the RPO The loan defaulters will now have to

repay their loans 15 days before submission of nomination papers instead of earlier six months while utility bill defaulters repay bills 15 days before submission of nominations instead of earlier three months.

as far away as the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek, about 400km away.

The second earthquake struck China's Himalayan region of Tibet on Monday killing at least 30 people, state media reported, citing local government sources.

The earthquake struck at 4:30 pm (0830 GMT) in a sparsely populated area about 84km west of the Tibetan capital of Lhasa, the US Geological Survey said.

US seismologists initially put the magnitude of the quake at 6.6, but later revised that down to 6.3.

The tremor in Tibet came after a 6.6-magnitude quake struck near China's border with Kyrgyzstan, killing at least 72 people. Shortly thereafter, another strong earthquake rattled China's far northwest.

Emergency officials said earlier that more than 100 people had been injured, mostly in Nura, a village of some 960 residents close to the point where the borders of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and China intersect. "The picture we saw was frighten-

ing. The village of Nura is fully destroyed, 100 percent," Emergency Situations Minister Kamchybek Tashiyevsaid. "These were dilapidated houses, made of clay and straw, so they were

totally destroyed," Kanatbek

Abdrakhmatov, head of the Institute of Seismology in Bishkek, told AFP. Victims were being ferried by helicopter from Nura to the main regional city of Osh, 220 kilometres

Several aftershocks followed in Tibet, with one measuring 5.4. Xinhua, quoting local government

officials, said many houses in Damxung county -- home to about 42,000 people -- near the quake's epicentre had collapsed, and that "more people were still buried in

Khaleda opens | Over 100 killed

Soldiers and medical teams were dispatched to the area, where roads and communications had been cut off, the report said.

More deaths were reported in a neighbouring county, Xinhua said, adding that an exact figure was not available. The agency quoted Zhu Quan,

director of the Tibetan seismological department, as saying authorities were still trying to determine the exact number of casualties.

The quake was felt strongly in Lhasa, Xinhua said, citing local sources.

"I was shaken for a few seconds and lamps in the office swayed. Then everything returned to normal," the report quoted one of its own Lhasa-

based reporters as saying. "Judging from how I felt, the tremor would not damage the cultural relics in Lhasa... There is no panic in the streets now. Shops

place at Purbo Sadardi bus station of Bhanga upazila in Faridpur at around 8:30 am when the speeding truck hit the Dhaka bound car from

died on the spot. Akhi and the driver Shahabaz died as locals were rushing them to the hospital. Sabuj, the eldest child of Selim Ahmed, was admitted to Faridpur

Medical College Hospital and later

transferred to Dhaka Medical

Police were able to stop the truck but its driver fled the scene. No case has not been filed in this regard.

Suicide bomber

to open a new office. Wearing a hidden explosives vest, the assailant "embraced the former commander" before detonating, the rebel-affiliated TamilNet Web site reported, noting that Perera played a key role in evicting Tamils from northeastern villages in 1984 to settle ethnic Sinhalese there.

Perera was lauded as a war hero in Sri Lanka for his repeated confrontations with the rebels and his role in halting a major guerrilla advance in 2000 into the Jaffna peninsula, the cultural heartland of the country's minority Tamils. But he was also a critic of the

government of President Mahinda

recent months of the opposition United National Party. In August the retired officer won a seat in the northcentral provincial assembly. The United National Party, meanwhile, accused the government of ignoring repeated requests for a stronger security detail for Perera an open critic of the way Colombo has

conducted its military campaign against the rebels. "The government must take full responsibility. They did not give him adequate security for political reasons," party official Tissa Attanayake

Just hours before the attack, a roadside bomb killed two civilians and wounded another in a village near Anuradhapura. Rebel officials could not be reached for comment on either

attack because communication lines

have been cut to guerrilla-

Meanwhile, a former leader of Sri

Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels is due to

enter parliament on the government

dominated areas in the north.

said, without elaborating.

of about Tk 159 crore to the public exchequer by illegally awarding the contract to China National Machinery Import and Export

ACC Assistant Director Shamsul Alam filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station in Dhaka on February 26 this year. The IO showed Saifur, Nizami,

He appealed to the court to issue arrest warrants against them, and orders to confiscate their properties

Pak MP's house

FROM PAGE 16 West Frontier Province, Amir Haider Khan Hoti, but caused no

casualties.

told AFP.

chief minister Amir Haider Khan Hoti was not in at the time of the attack late Sunday, but it underlined the threat faced by authorities as they battle Taliban extremists near the Afghan border. "Two rockets were fired from an

said Iqbal Khan, the police chief of Mardan, a town 50 kilometres (30 miles) from Peshawar. "The chief minister was not there. We have surrounded the area Monday scrambled to deny a US

hit the house but landed nearby,"

houses close to Hoti's residence, damaging the boundary wall of one and the kitchen of the other. "The chief minister's house was

Hussain. Nobody claimed the responsibility for the attack, but it came three days after a suicide bombing at the house of a leading member of Pakistan's coalition government in

attack, Awami National Party chief Asfandyar Wali Khan, escaped unhurt. Hoti is a member of the same party, a moderate group, which

hardline Islamist Taliban.

backs the rights of ethnic Pashtuns

on President Asif Ali Zardari, the widower of slain ex-prime minister Benazir Bhutto, to combat the growing threat posed by Islamic extremists. Pakistan is still reeling from a

suicide attack on the Marriott

Hotel in Islamabad on September

20, which killed 60 people. Officials

say it was likely in revenge for

military operations in the lawless northwestern tribal regions. Relations with key ally Washington are also in crisis amid a string of US incursions and missile strikes against extremist targets on

Pakistani soil.

to hunt down the attackers," Khan newspaper report that Zardari had admitted the hugely unpopular Locals said the rockets hit two missile strikes were part of a deal with the United States. "We have an understanding, in the sense that we're going after an

enemy together," the Wall Street

Journal quoted Zardari as saying

"He (Zardari) has never said that

when asked about the strikes.

The Pakistani government on

they (the strikes) were being done with our knowledge or permission," Information Minister Sherry Rehman told state television when asked about the interview. "We have been saying that

forces, they should share it with She also specifically denied that Pakistan had given permission for a

ground attack by US special forces on September 3 in which 15

have been deployed around the puja the government suspected that venues to ensure security during the trial additive, melamine.

hopefuls fail to do so by October 15.

this is unacceptable, and constitutes There is nothing wrong with

the December 18 national election will not be able to begin campaign before November 27. A violation of the code is punishable by at least six months in prison,

"We are trying to create a fair

including those on his wealth, liabili-

times about the election.

Renata, also the resident represen-November.

seabed of the Bay of Bengal. Bangladesh has also sea border

inconclusive.

criminals and smugglers. "It's very important to

increasing trade volume between

During a press briefing held at the Jamaat-e-Islami central office, party Secretary General Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojahid termed the

run up to the elections, the government must accept their 5-point

ers of CNG stations is around 2,500psi, adding, "I've also noticed in a few filling stations that the pressure is even as low as 2,250psi, which create the annoying sound

same, fooling the consumers. And

that's why the same volume of CNG

"But, sometimes only the filling

meters can go on unhindered. Sultan, a taxi driver, told the Daily Star, "Once I filled my 60 litre gas cylinder to the full, which holds 200 units, and after driving from Mugda to Bashabo, my fuel tank meter indicated that 30 units were already used. But, usually it takes only 5 units to go the distance

Controversial Hawa Bhaban has

of former Jai Jai Din editor Shafik

Paltan office gets crowded often making it difficult for the party chairperson to work there.

"Party standing and executive committees will hold meeting here it needed," he said.

among others, were present.

on most of the applications and rejected a few of them. The chamber judge asked the

former law minister Moudud Ahmed. Meanwhile, a vacation bench of the High Court (HC) on separate Rajapaksa and became a leader in

area yesterday exempted Awami League Joint Secretary and former state minister Obaidul Quader, who is now in India for treatment, from

charges of amassing wealth through illegal means. In the case filed with Ramna Police

submitted to the commission. On February 25, the joint forces arrested Abbas on the ACC premises at Segunbagichain the city.

In the case, it was alleged that the former law minister had kept back information about his actual wealth and the wealth accumulated through illegal means in the statement submitted to the ACC.

concealed information about his wealth worth Tk 6,434,295 from the

may allow any political party to apply for registration if it has got provisional constitution containing certain provisions specified along with resolution of the party's highest policy-making body--whatever may be called (working committee, central committee and so on)--to the effect that the political party will submit ratified constitution within six months of the first sitting of the ninth (next) parliament. The caretaker government also

Under a new sub-clause interpolated into the RPO, anyone found outside the polling center with ballot papers or ballot book will be penalised. Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Syed

Fahim Munaim briefed newsmen

about the outcome of the meeting.

remain open."

4 of a family

the opposite direction. Three of the car's passengers

College Hospital (DMCH). His condition remains critical. The family hailed from Banai village under Kathalia upazila in

Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan,

recently to contest local polls, the gazette notification said. Karuna, who led an unprecedented split in the Tamil Tiger movement in 2004, returned from Britain in July this year, after serving a brief

jail term on immigration charges.

He became an embarrassment

also known as Colonel Karuna, will

be sworn in on Tuesday to the 225-

member parliament to fill the

vacancy of a lawmaker who quit

for Colombo after he alleged that he was given a false diplomatic passport by Sri Lankan authorities to travel to London.

Warrant issued

FROM PAGE 1

On September 25, the ACC approved the charge sheet against Khaleda and the other accused in connection with illegally awarding a contract for operating Barapukuria coalmine to a Chinese company. In the charge sheet, the IO mentioned that the accused caused a loss

Corporation (CMC), abusing power. The IO also said the charges brought against them were primarily proven, and they should be brought

Mojahid, Aminul Haque, AKM Mosharraf, Nazrul Islam, SR Osmani, Mainul Ahsan, Sirajul Islam, and Moazzem Hossain as fugitives in the

as they did not obtain bail from any benches, an official announcement showed Monday. court.

unknown direction at the minister's house in Mardan. They did not

North West Frontier Province

the target," said provincial information minister Mian Iftikhar

a nearby town killed four people. The politician targeted in that

whenever there is some actionable intelligence with (US-led) coalition us," she said.

and is strongly opposed to the The attacks have piled pressure Pakistanis were killed.

offering Eid greetings. But doing that by pasting posters is not normal behaviour, he observed. Beside, he added, this undermines the efforts to ensure a level decision in light of the shortcomings playing field.